

ideals upon which this country was founded, and it is with great honor and respect that we honor the life and service of Reverend George Docherty. Our great thanks go to this remarkable individual, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING BILL DOUGLASS
CONVENIENCE STORE HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor an outstanding citizen in the Fourth District of Texas and my longtime friend, Bill Douglass of Sherman, as a 2008 Convenience Store Hall of Fame Inductee.

This year's Convenience Store News Hall of Fame induction ceremony in October honored Bill as much for his strong character, integrity and community service as for his business achievements. Bill was honored for his tireless efforts on behalf of the convenience and petroleum retailing industry and for the level of integrity that he has upheld over the years. The W. Douglass Distributing Company, which Bill founded in 1981 and which he serves as CEO, is a full-line distributorship and operator of the 15-unit Lone Star Food Stores chain servicing the region of north Texas and southern Oklahoma. The company, which began with just six employees, has grown to more than 280 employees.

Throughout his career, Bill has been a tireless and effective advocate for the convenience and petroleum retailing industry. He has served as chairman of the General Committee of State Relations for the American Petroleum Institute, chairman of the National Association of Convenience Stores and director of the Texas Petroleum and Convenience Store Association, and he has testified on several occasions before Congress about issues important to his industry.

Bill is also a widely recognized and respected member of the north Texas community, providing financial support and volunteer efforts to various local organizations each year. In 2002 he and his wife, Joan, were named as the Outstanding Employer of Older Workers for their strong belief in the value of older workers by maintaining an age-balanced group of employees. Their winning combination of younger workers and their older counterparts has created a work environment where age and experience can assist in training, advice and counseling. The company has no mandatory retirement age and provides flexibility in scheduling of employees' hours.

Madam Speaker, Bill Douglass is the kind of employer who leads by example. These are some of the words that his employees used to describe him and his family in a full-page newspaper ad: "wonderful, inspirational, brilliant, graceful, generous, charitable, tireless, encouraging, selfless, devoted, integrity." Bill Douglass embodies all of those qualities—and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this wonderful man and outstanding American, Bill Douglass.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
EMILIO ALBERT DE LA GARZA, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize Ivy Tech Community College as it dedicates its East Chicago, Indiana campus and to join the institute in paying tribute to its namesake, Vietnam War hero Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. After completing the first phase of a new modernization project, Ivy Tech will be holding a dedication ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the campus in East Chicago, Indiana. The event will serve not only as an opportunity to showcase the improvements to the campus and to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in higher learning, but it will also serve as a chance to reflect on the bravery and heroism of one of East Chicago's own.

Ivy Tech Community College's East Chicago campus has served students from Northwest Indiana and beyond since 1994. Always committed to improving the learning environment for its students, the De La Garza campus, which began with 376 students and now serves an impressive enrollment of 1,122 students, recently completed the first phase of a modernization project. This project, which began in July 2006, features improvements to general maintenance and enhanced safety measures, as well as new and improved conference rooms and student common areas. Phase II of this project, set to begin in January 2009, will focus on improvements to the classrooms and computer labs.

These renovations are the result of the continuous outpouring of support from the community, offered as a living memory of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens and greatest heroes, Lance Corporal Emilio A. De La Garza, Jr. Lance Corporal De La Garza was born in East Chicago, Indiana on June 23, 1949. Following his graduation from East Chicago Washington High School in 1968, the patriotic and devoted De La Garza decided to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While serving as a machine gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on April 11, 1970, Lance Corporal De La Garza paid the ultimate sacrifice. Demonstrating the most selfless act imaginable, Lance Corporal De La Garza placed himself between two of his fellow Marines and a live grenade. While Lance Corporal De La Garza's life was lost, his courageous act spared the lives of the other Marines.

Lance Corporal Emilio De La Garza, Jr. performed the ultimate act of heroism, setting aside personal safety for the safety of others. For his bravery, Lance Corporal De La Garza was posthumously honored by President Richard Nixon with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ivy Tech Community College's administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the community who, over the years, have contributed to its success in achieving its standard of excellence, as well as in honoring

the school's namesake, Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. The efforts of those involved have made the De La Garza campus a tremendous source of pride of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have made the campus a constant reminder of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens.

HONORING AL AUSTIN ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of one of Tampa Bay's finest citizens, Al Austin, on the occasion of his upcoming 80th birthday.

A lifelong Floridian, Al grew up on his family's egg farm in St. Petersburg. After his high school graduation and college at the University of Tampa, Al joined the Coast Guard, where he performed admirably in service to our Nation.

Following his military service, Al partnered with his family to start a real estate development business in the Tampa Bay region. Since then his family-owned company has continued to grow and helped build the greater Tampa community. Without his influence the Tampa St. Pete region would not be the economic growth engine for the State that it is today.

In addition to his success in real estate, Al and his wife Beverly share a passion for education. After founding the Tampa Preparatory School in the 1970s, they went on to lead fundraising campaigns for the refurbishment and growth of the University of Tampa campus. Their commitment to local charitable organizations has truly benefitted thousands of people throughout the region.

In his spare time, Al loves to collect and drive classic sports cars. He has also earned a reputation as one of the leading Republicans in Florida, having worked with State and national leaders for the past 40 years to help grow and expand the party. Al has also served various Florida Governors throughout his career as the head of the Florida Racing Commission, a member of the Hillsborough Aviation Authority as well as serving on the Military Base Closure Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, I know that Al's upcoming birthday celebration will commemorate a lifetime of hard work and service to others. He has a proven track record of giving back and helping to make Florida and our Nation better and more prosperous places. I know that the House will join me in wishing Al a happy 80th birthday, with many more to come in the future.

HONORING M. PAUL REDD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize M. Paul Redd and the 80th anniversary of the Westchester County Press and